

# Origin and Destiny in Eden



## GENESIS

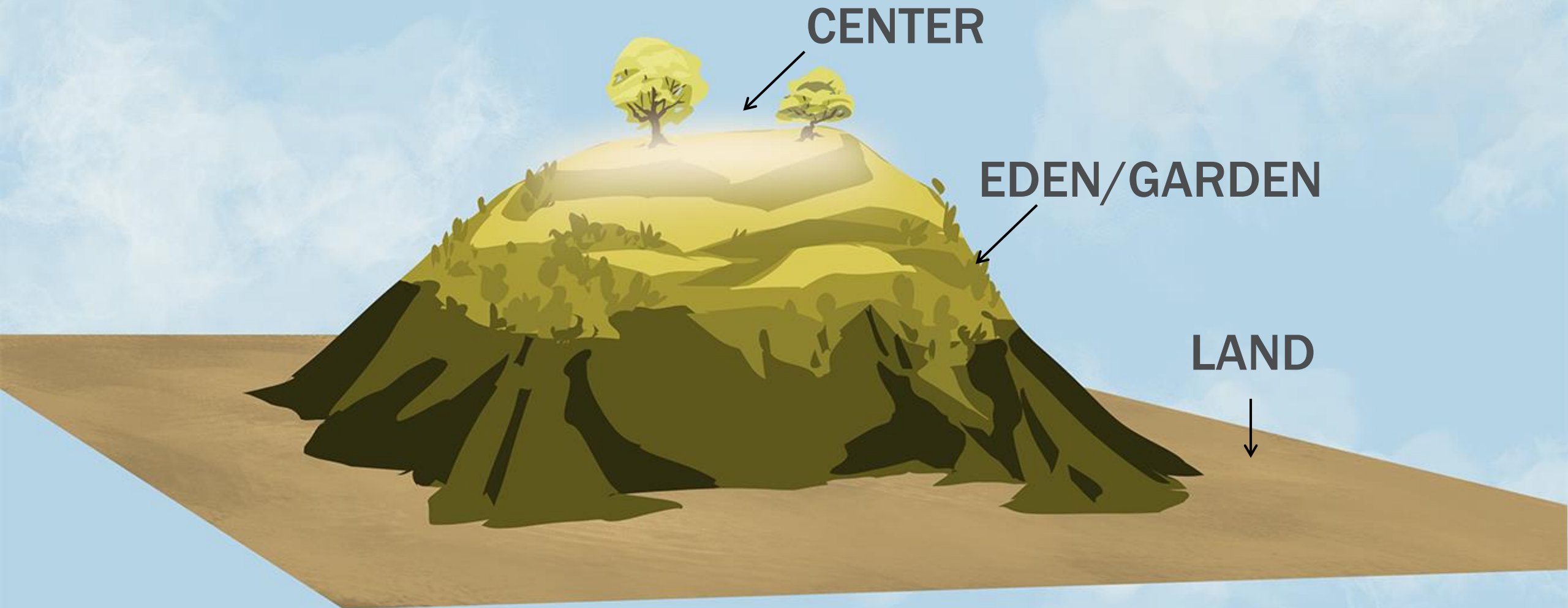
Chapter 2:8-17



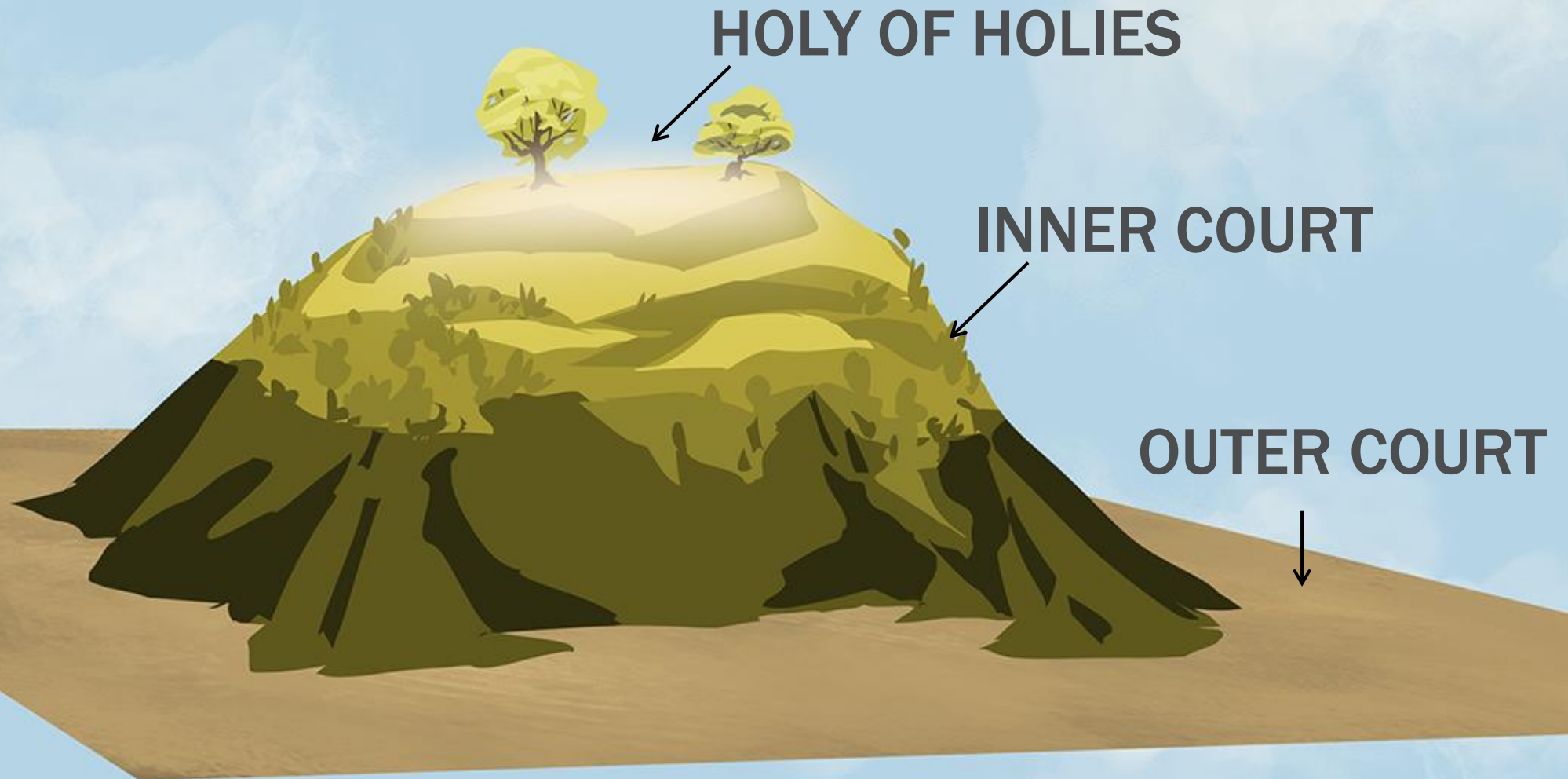
## Genesis 2

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east, and there he placed the man he had made. <sup>9</sup> The Lord God made all sorts of trees grow up from the ground—trees that were beautiful and that produced delicious fruit. In the middle of the garden he placed the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

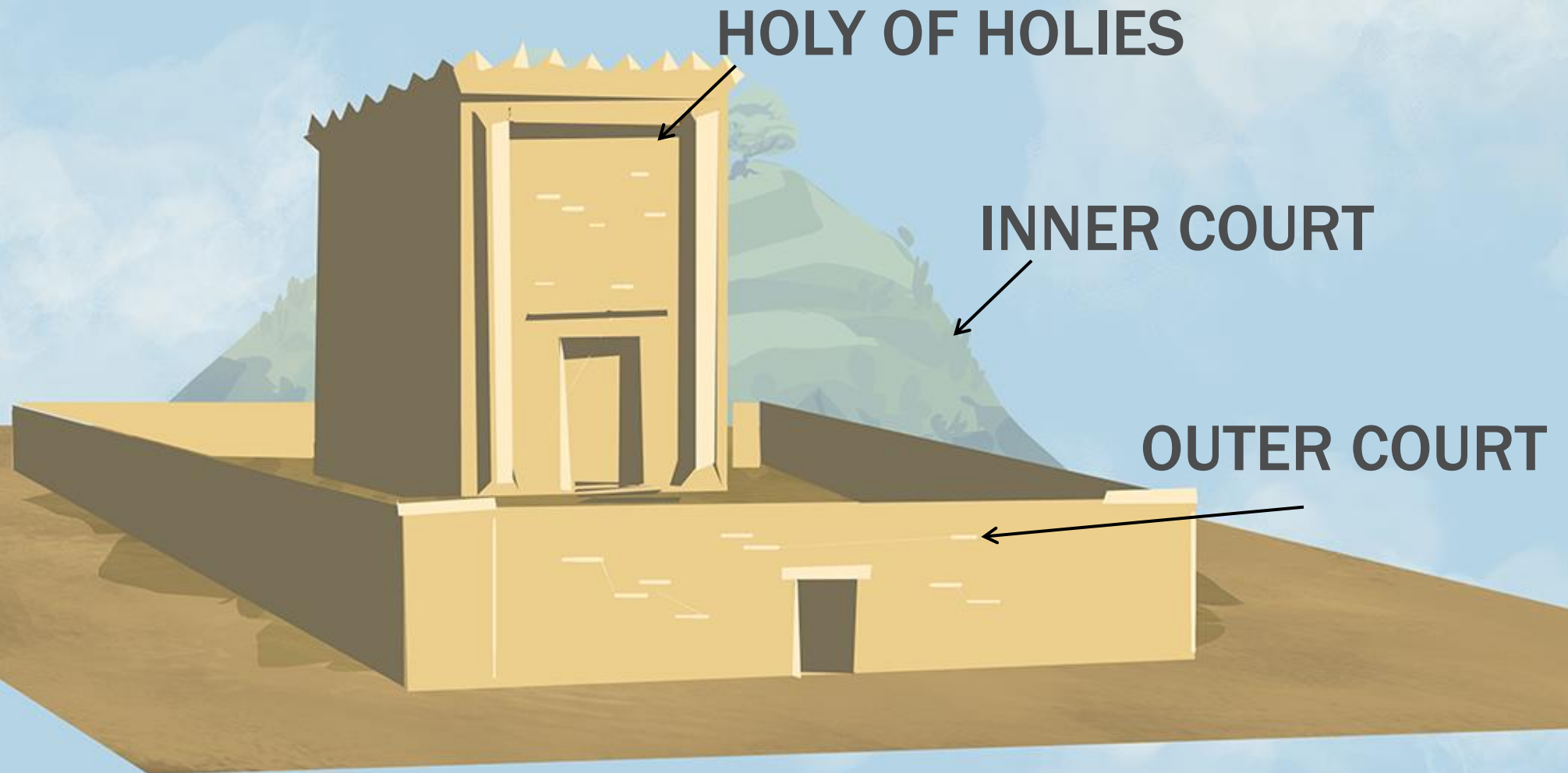
# Three-tiered sacred space:



# Three-tiered sacred space:



# Three-tiered sacred space:



# The Garden of Eden is our first view of the Kingdom of God



## Genesis 2

<sup>10</sup> A river flowed from the land of Eden, watering the garden and then dividing into four branches.







**The gardens of  
Ashurbanipal**

## Genesis 2

<sup>11</sup> The first branch, called the Pishon, flowed around the entire land of Havilah, where gold is found. <sup>12</sup> The gold of that land is exceptionally pure; aromatic resin and onyx stone are also found there. <sup>13</sup> The second branch, called the Gihon, flowed around the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The third branch, called the Tigris, flowed east of the land of Asshur. The fourth branch is called the Euphrates.

All people in all places exist  
because of God's good gift of life



## Matthew 5

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! <sup>45</sup> In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

## Matthew 5

For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. <sup>46</sup> If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that?

## Genesis 2

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

***Avad*: tend – work or labor**





***Avad:* tend – work or labor**



***Shamar:* watch – oversee, or  
Attend to temple liturgies**



*In Christ, all work is sacred activity*



## Genesis 2

<sup>16</sup> But the Lord God warned him, “You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— <sup>17</sup> except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die.”

# The Tree of Life: life beyond the original gift of life



# Choice between trees

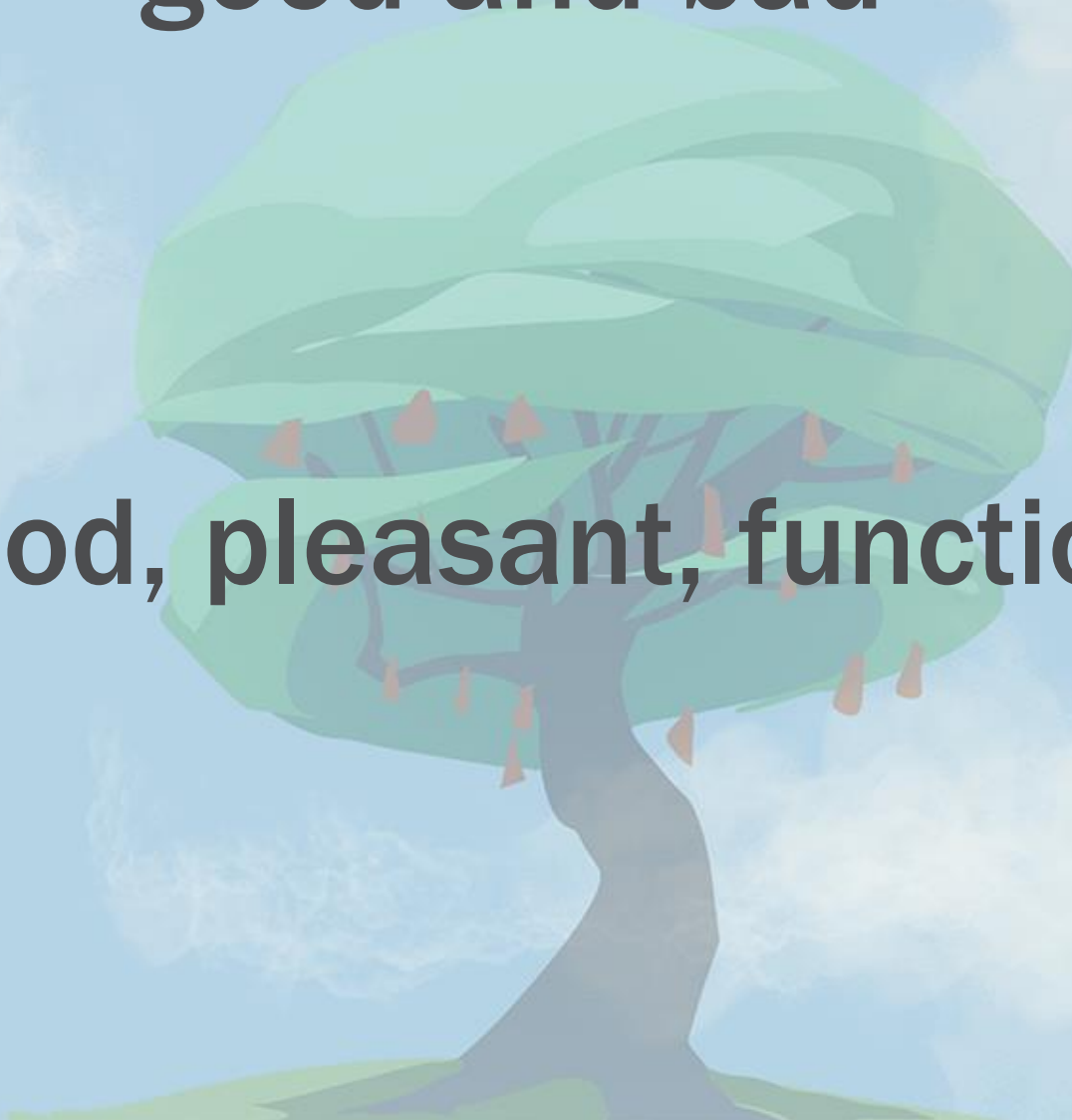


# The Tree of the knowledge of good and bad



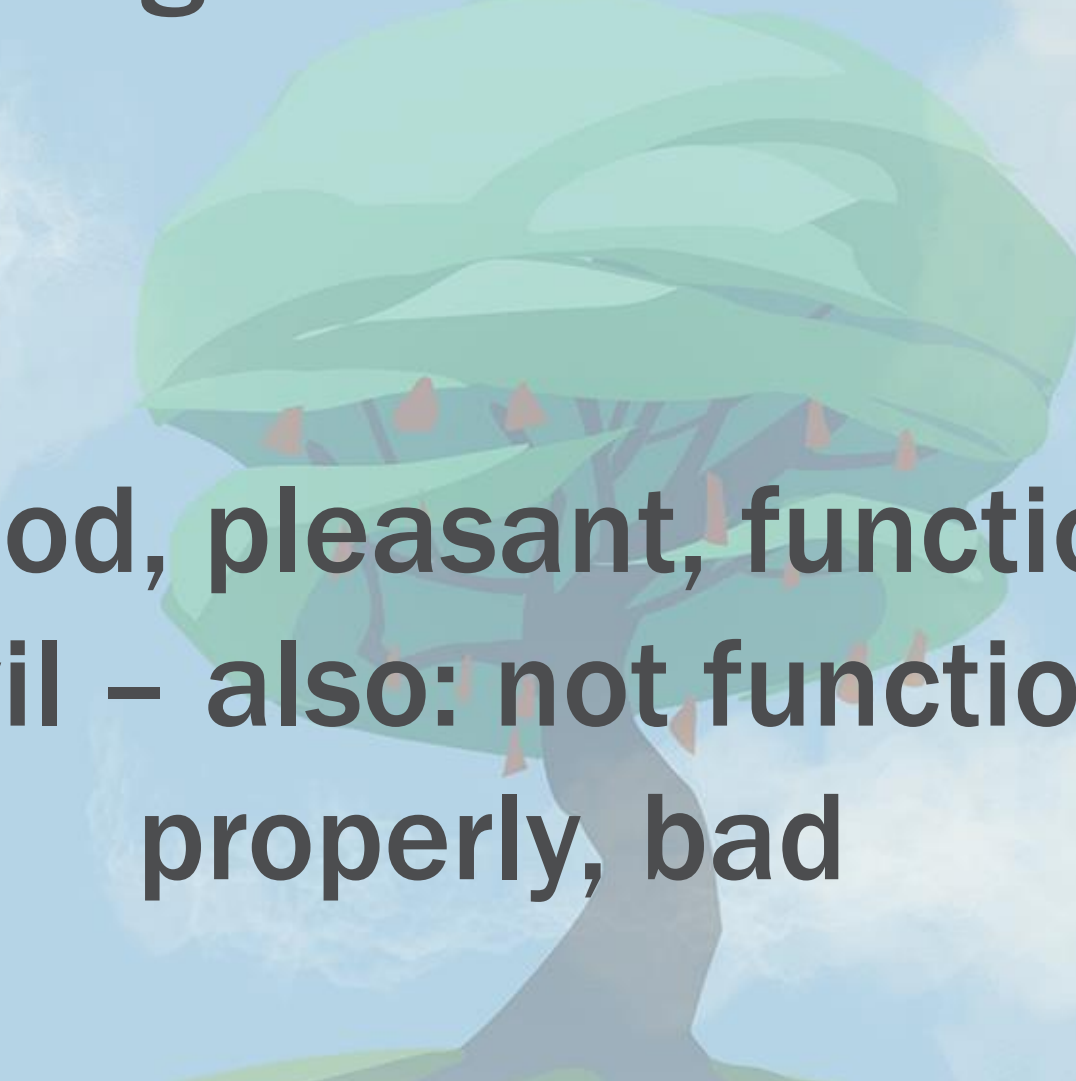
# The Tree of the knowledge of good and bad

**Tov: good, pleasant, functioning**



# The Tree of the knowledge of good and bad

**Tov: good, pleasant, functioning**  
**Ra: evil – also: not functioning  
properly, bad**





## Proverbs 3

<sup>18</sup> Wisdom is a **tree of life** to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.

**Is God our guide for wisdom concerning  
right and wrong, good and bad?**



## James 1

<sup>5</sup> If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. <sup>6</sup> But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind.



# GENESIS